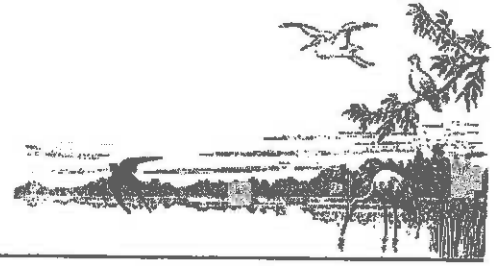


Sermon Notes

Brooksville Church of Christ • Brooksville, Florida
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The Problem of Self

Introduction

1. Our society seems to be consumed with self.
 - a. Many of the ills of society are often blamed on a poor self image.
 - b. As a nation, we are obsessed with "rights" with no regard to how they affect others.
 - c. The "pro-choice" advocates while demanding their "rights" show no regard for the child.
2. The problem of self is not new or peculiar to our time nor will it go away.
 - a. From Eden to the present, self and selfishness has been the chief cause of evil doing.
 - b. Self is at the root of all sin.
3. Ask yourself, "Who is your greatest enemy?"
4. Someone has said, "To conquer self is to conquer all."
 - a. Though we are prone to blame others, we must look at self.
 - b. The proper attitude toward self is a sign of maturity.
5. This lesson will give attention to self so that we might develop the proper attitude toward self and self-importance.

I. Biblical Examples Illustrating the Characteristics of Selfish People

- A. Cain. He had no concern for others. (Gen. 4)
- B. King Ahab. His concern was for things. (1 Kings 21)
- C. The rich fool. His concern was for things. (Luke 12)
- D. King David. His only thought was the desire to fulfill his own pleasures. (2 Sam. 11)
- E. James and John. Theirs was a desire for power and prestige for themselves. (Matt. 20)
- G. The prodigal's older brother. (Luke 15)

II. The Problems of an Improper Attitude Toward Self

- A. Self-centeredness. (Luke 10)
- B. Self-conceit. (Prov. 16; Jas. 4; Luke 18; Rom. 12)
- C. Self-willed. (Acts 7; Titus 1)
- D. Self-indulgence. (Rom. 1; 2 Tim. 4)
- E. Self-righteousness. (Luke 18; Rom. 10)
- F. Self-satisfaction. (Rev. 3)

III. How to Solve the Problem of Self

- A. Follow the examples of selflessness found in Scripture.
 - 1. Abraham. (Gen. 13)
 - 2. Joseph. (Gen. 45)
 - 3. The good Samaritan. (Luke 10)
 - 4. Barnabas. (Acts 4)
 - 5. The apostle Paul. (Gal. 2:20)
- B. Exercise self-denial. (Matt. 16:24)
- C. Esteem others better than self. (Phil 2:3-4)
- D. Humble yourself before God. (1 Pet. 5:6)
- E. Exercise self-control. (Gal. 5:22-23; 2 Pet. 1:5-8)
- F. Practice self-sacrifice. (2 Cor. 8:1-5; Rom. 12:1)

Conclusion

- 1. The religion of Christ is one of service, surrender and sacrifice.
- 2. Someone has suggested that, for all practical purposes, the one great question in judgment will be, "Did you win the battle over self?"
- 3. God wants self relegated to the background.
- 4. Christians are to put off self and put on Christ and glorify God, not self, by their lives.